

GRENADA
Intervention of Ms. Kisha Gellineau
Secretary-General of the Grenada National Commission
for UNESCO
207th session of the Executive Board
15 October 2019

Mr. Chairman of the Executive Board,
Madam President of the General Conference,
Madam Director-General,
Dear colleagues,

I would like to start by standing in solidarity with our Caribbean neighbor the Bahamas. For three days, in September, several Islands of the Bahamas were ravaged by Hurricane Dorian that caused catastrophic damage leaving at least 70,000 people homeless and over 150 persons lost their lives.

While we contribute less than 1 per cent to the world's greenhouse gas emissions, we are among the first to experience the worst and most devastating impacts of climate change with greater risks to our economies, livelihoods, and our sustainable development.

It cannot be business as usual; we have seen how in a few hours or days we can cease to exist as an Island State.

We once again call on UNESCO to strengthen its actions and partnerships in all its fields of competence to support Small Island Developing States given their unique vulnerabilities. We reiterate our call to the Director General to mobilize additional resources in order to achieve an effective and successful implementation of the SIDS Action Plan.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the measures put in place for the implementation of the third Pillar of the strategic transformation in view of defining a new vision to shape the future action of UNESCO in the framework of its future Medium

Term Strategy. In this regard, we reiterate our commitment to the two global priorities Africa and Gender equality and underline the importance of continuing to give special attention to Youth and SIDS as Priority Groups.

We recognize that new priorities and programmes will be defined and approved within the future Medium Term Strategy. Thus, the restructuring of the Programme Sectors should be aligned with the new vision, when adopted, and not before, in order to best serve its priorities.

As well, we believe that the mobility policy should be well articulated with the restructuring of the field network, when approved by the Governing Bodies, with the objective of strengthening the expertise in the field and at the same time maintaining strong expertise needed at Headquarters to implement the 40C/5 as the second biennium of the Quadrennial Programme.

We express concerns in view of the significant number of agreed separations implemented recently which should have been part of an incentive scheme approved by Governing Bodies with earmarked special funds to avoid the alteration of the implementation of the Programme activities.

Thus we reiterate our call for an improved human resource strategy for the Organization with full respect of its Rules and Regulations, in order to advance Programme delivery and balanced geographical representation.

Grenada welcomes the efforts for the promotion of collaboration and enhanced internal communication, calling for improved accountability and responsibility.

Mr. Chairman,

Grenada strongly believes in the transformative power of education and in the leadership role of UNESCO in the implementation of SDG 4 for the benefit of all Member States' needs and the development of adequate policies.

We welcome the new Convention for the Recognition of Studies, Degrees and Diplomas in Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean that Grenada signed.

We value UNESCO's assistance in developing Grenada's National TVET Policy by assessing its current status, identifying strategic priorities, and proposing alternative interventions responding to those priorities.

Also, with UNESCO's advice, Grenada is in the process of finalizing the setup of the National Man and Biosphere Committee that will oversee MAB programme in Grenada.

Mr. Chairman,

Science, technology and innovation are critical for sustainable development. We support UNESCO's efforts for developing adequate science policies in the Caribbean and for continuing the implementation of Tsunami Early Warning Systems which are of vital importance to SIDS. We commend the work of IOC in the preparation of the International Decade of Ocean Sciences for the benefit of all Member States.

We look forward to the consideration by the General Conference of the desirability of a normative instrument on ethics of artificial intelligence which should be prepared in an intersectoral manner.

We reiterate our support to UNESCO's mandate in preserving the diversity of tangible and intangible cultural heritage in the framework of all its cultural conventions.

We underline the importance of the Organisation's mandate in Communication and Information for increasing access, preservation and sharing of information and knowledge for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you.